

The Office Action mailed March 30, 2000, having been duly extended from June 30, 2000 until July 30, 2000 by the attached Petition for Extension of Time, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendment and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. New claims 11-13 are supported by the specification and drawings. No new matter has been added. Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 4 and 5. Claims 1-9 and 11-13 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 USC §112, fourth paragraph, as failing to further limit the claims 1, 2 or 6. Applicants have canceled claim 10.

Claims 1-3 and 6-10 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Otsuki (U.S. Patent No. 5,929,932).

Applicants have properly claimed foreign priority dates of April 30, June 10, and June 13, 1996 from Japanese Patent Application Numbers 8-109017, 8-147034, and 8-152228, respectively. Submitted herewith are verified English language translations of these Japanese Patent Applications. Otsuki has a 35 USC §102(e) effective filing priority date of October 18, 1996. Applicants respectfully submit that Otsuki is not prior art to the present invention. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Further, the applicants respectfully request that all of claims 1-9 and 11-13 be found allowable, and this application be passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicant's undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 1-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

ARENT FOX-KINTNER PLOTKIN KAHN PLLC



Bradley D. Goldizen
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 43,637

Atty. Docket No. 107355-08002

1050 Connecticut Avenue, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20036-5339
Tel (202) 857-6000
Fax (202) 638-4810

BDG:abm

Encl: Petition for Extension of Time
Verified English translations of three priority documents

RECEIVED
AUG 3 2000
Group 2700